

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

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NSC-05 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 00504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, PFOR, EX, SEDU

SUBJECT: CSCE: POTENTIAL LEGAL DIFFICULTIES WITH TEXT ON
STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES (SUBCOMMITTEE L)

REF: A) STATE 17881; B) GENEVA 7580; C) GENEVA 7597; D) STATE 5671

1. USDEL HAS RAISED WITH CANADIAN DEL ABOVE SUBJECT,
PRESSING DEPARTMENT'S POSITION AS SET FORTH IN REF A.
CANADIANS SUGGESTED TODAY POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM,
ON WHICH WE NEED GUIDANCE BY OOB JANUARY 31 IN VIEW OF
NEED TO DISCUSS WITHIN NATO CAUCUS ON THAT DAY AND OF
SOVIET PRESSURES TO MOVE AHEAD EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE.

2. CANADIANS AGREE THAT WORDS "ENCOURAGE" AND "PROMOTE"
ARE VIRTUALLY SYNONYMOUS. HOWEVER, FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, THEY REQUIRE PHRASE "WITHIN
THEIR COMPETENCE" IN THIS TEXT, ESPECIALLY AS IT
DEALS WITH HIGHLY SENSITIVE SUBJECT OF FOREIGN-LANGUAGE
INSTRUCTION.

3. CANADIANS HAVE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO VARIOUS
POSSIBILITIES TO MEET US POSITION, SPECIFICALLY:

A. THEY ARE PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO PLACE PHRASE
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"WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCE" ANYWHERE ELSE IN PARAGRAPH 1

OF TEXT (REF B). HOWEVER, THEY CONCLUDE THAT IN PRACTICE NO OTHER LOCATION OF PHRASE IS APPROPRIATE;

B. PHRASE MIGHT BE PLACED IN FINAL SENTENCE OF MINI-PREAMBLE (REF C) TO ENTIRE EDUCATION TEXT. SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD, HOWEVER, UNDOUBTEDLY BE STRONGLY OPPOSED BY ALLIED DELEGATIONS, WHICH WISH AVOID RESTRICTIVE CLAUSES IN MINI-PREAMBLES TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE;

C. VERY "PROMOTE" COULD BE REPLACED AND STRENGTHENED, PERHAPS BY REFORMULATION OF PARAGRAPH 1 ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

BEGIN TEXT (1) TO ENCOURAGE THE STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AND CIVILIZATION AS AN IMPORTANT MEANS FOR EXPANDING COMMUNICATION AMONG PEOPLES FOR THEIR BETTER ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE CULTURE OF EACH COUNTRY, AS WELL AS FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION; TO THIS END, WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCE, TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS DIRECTED TOWARD THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND THE DIVERSIFICATION OF CHOICE OF LANGUAGES TAUGHT AT VARIOUS LEVELS, PAYING DUE ATTENTION TO LESS WIDELY-SPERAD OR STUDIED LANGUAGES, AND IN PARTICULAR: END TEXT.

CANADIANS POINT OUT THAT STRENGTHENING OF TEXT ALONG THESE LINES MIGHT WELL CAUSE GDR OR OTHER DELS TO ADD FURTHER QUALIFICATION TO COMPETENCE CLAUSE (E.G. "WITHIN THEIR COMPETENCE AND POSSIBILITIES"). ON BALANCE, HOWEVER, THEY CONCLUDE THIS IS BEST APPROACH TO PROBLEM AND WOULD SUPPORT AN EFFORT TO AMEND TEXT ALONG FOREGOING LINES.

4. SOVIETS ARE PRESSING FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION OF ENTIRE TEXT ON STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES AS NOW DRAFTED, AND EC-NINE WISH DO THIS AS SOON AS MINI-PREAMBLE TO EDUCATION TEXTS REGISTERED (REF D). LATTER ACTION MAY WELL OCCUR EARLY NEXT WEEK. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUEST URGENT INSTRUCTIONS SO THAT WE MAY DISCUSS MATTER WITHIN NATO COMMITTEE III CAUCUS SOONEST. WE SHARE CANADIAN PREFERENCE FOR OPTION OUTLINED IN 3(C) ABOVE, AND RECOMMEND ITS ADOPTION.DALE

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